

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A sensor configuration for use in detecting ink droplets ejected from an ink drop generator, comprising:

a non-contact electrically biased conductive absorbent sensing target element; and
a sensing amplifier coupled to the sensing target element, whereby the sensing target element is imparted with an electrical stimulus when generated by a capacitive current related to a charge on an ~~struck by at least on~~ ink droplet ejected from the ink drop generator.

28. (Currently Amended) A sensor configuration according to claim 27, wherein the sensing target element is further configured to receive a biasing voltage which creates an electric field from the sensing target element to the ink drop generator.

29.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A printing mechanism, comprising:

a printhead having ink drop generators for selectively ejecting ink; and
an ink drop sensor for detecting ink droplets ejected from the ink drop generators, comprising:

a non-contact electrically biased conductive absorbent sensing target element; and

a sensing amplifier coupled to the sensing target element, whereby the sensing target element is imparted with an electrical stimulus when generated by a

capacitive current related to a charge on an ~~struck by at least one~~ ink droplet ejected
~~from the ink drop generator.~~

45. (Currently Amended) A printing mechanism according to claim 44, wherein the sensing target element is further configured to receive a biasing voltage which creates an electric field from the sensing target element.

46.-70. (Canceled)